

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29111 071828Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4990

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, FR

SUBJ: PROPOSED AMCHAM MAGAZINE ARTICLE

REF: STATE 259040

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS DRAFTED IN EMBASSY HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO AMCHAM FOR CLEARANCE WITH MINISTER SEGARD. SINCE THEY WILL BE PRESENTED TO FRENCH AS AMCHAM SUGGESTIONS, SUBJECT TO CLEARANCE BY BOTH PARTIES, STR IS FREE TO REVISE OR SUPPLEMENT THEM AT WILL. SINCE PRESENT PLAN IS TO GO TO PRESS NOV 30 FOR EARLY JAN PUBLICATION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT UNIFORM LIST OF QUESTIONS BE AGREED TO BY COB NOV L4.

A. HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE TOKYO ROUND? WHAT KIND OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING WORLD WOULD YOU HOPE TO SEE EMERGE FROM THE NEGOTIATION?

B. THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECESSION, FROM WHICH THE DEVELOPED WORLD NOW APPEARS TO BE EMERGING, HAS LED MANY COUNTRIES TO CONSIDER UNILATERAL MEASURES TO PROTECT OR ASSIST THEIR MORE VULNERABLE INDUSTRIES. WOULD YOU CLARIFY THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES OF THIS KIND? DO YOU SEE THEM AS A THREAT TO

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PAGE 02 PARIS 29111 071828Z

THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS?

C. AS BETWEEN THE US AND THE EEC IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE US HAS MORE SCOPE FOR TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF CONCESSIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND THE EEC IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. IS IT FEASIBLE TO TRADE OFF CONCESSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SECTORS, AND IF SO HOW?

D. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN GATT HISTORY THE TOKYO ROUND WILL ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF REDUCING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS. WHAT THOUGHTS DO YOU HAVE ON HOW THIS COMPLEX TASK SHOULD BE TACKLED?

E. THE DEVELOPING WORLD HOPES THAT THE TOKYO ROUND WILL LEAD TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN ITS OVERALL BALANCE OF TRADE VIS-A-VIS THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. ASSUMING THIS TO BE IN THE GLOBAL INTEREST, HOW CAN IT BEST BE ACHIEVED?

F. DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT SEE A NEED FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN THE GATT AGREEMENT? IF SO IN WHAT RESPECT?

2. REQUEST STR REACTION TO ABOVE QUESTIONS
ASAP. SEGARD REACTION WILL BE CABLED AS AVAILABLE.
STR RESPONSES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, SEGARD'S
IN FRENCH, AS "COMMERCE IN FRANCE" IS BILINGUAL. IF
STR WISHES TO PROMOTE BROADER COVERAGE IN FRENCH PRESS
WE COULD ARRANGE FOR EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE OR OTHER
APPROPRIATE COVERAGE ON PUBLICATION DAY, HOPEFULLY WITH
COOPERATION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.
RUSH

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